

REMARKS

Currently, claims 1-10, 12-15, 17-19, 21, 31-32, and 34-37 remain pending in the present application, including independent claims 1, 12-14, and 31. In the Office Action, claims 6-9, 11-13, 21, 33, 34, 36 and 37 were indicated as being allowable. As shown above, the limitations of previously pending claims 11 and 33 have been incorporated into independent claim 1 and 31, respectfully. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-10, 12-13, 21, 31-32, and 34-37 are allowable, as indicated by the Office Action.

The remaining method claims 14-15 and 17-19, including independent claim 14, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of Green. However, Applicants believe that independent claim 14 patentably defines over Green.

Green is directed to lubricious gloves that include a modified elastomeric glove body covered by a lubricious coating made of polyvinyl alcohol and a thickening agent. The thickening agent is a rhamsan gum. As stated in Green, the purpose of the glove is to be worn during the formation of orthopaedic casting bandages. The polyvinyl chloride coating is present so that the glove does not stick to tacky urethane prepolymer coated tapes, especially when wet.

Green teaches a method of forming the coated elastomeric glove body by dipping the form into a coagulant solution, then into the latex solution, and allowing the latex to gel. Col. 4, lines 4-23. The gelled latex is dipped into the lubricious coating made of polyvinyl alcohol solution, which can contain a dispersion of fumed silica in water. Col. 4, lines 28-30 and Col. 5, lines 26-28. Finally, the glove is stripped from the form, which inverts the glove. Col. 4, lines 37-39. Green discloses that the glove must be inverted again, in order to expose the polyvinyl alcohol coated side of the gloves in the outward direction. Col. 4, lines 39-42.

The coagulant composition of Green contains a latex coagulant, usually a solution of calcium nitrate and alcohol or calcium nitrate and water. No where does Green disclose that the coagulant composition can comprise a plurality of colloidal silica

particles. In fact, Green only discloses the use of silica particles in the lubricious coating containing a polyvinyl alcohol.

In stark contrast, independent claim 14 requires that a coagulant composition comprising a plurality of colloidal silica particles be applied to the mold. In this manner, when the elastomeric article is formed by coalescing an elastomer against the coated mold, the colloidal silica particles are adhered to said coalesced elastomer. Then, the coalesced elastomer is separated from the mold surface such that said coalesced elastomer is turned inside-out. Thus, the colloidal silica particles adhered to and partially embedded in the outside surface are exposed.

As stated in the present application, in one embodiment, the particles are contained in a coagulant solution and applied to a former prior to dipping the former into an elastomeric material. In this manner, the particles become partially embedded in the outside surface of the glove when the glove is removed from the former.

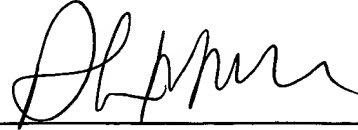
In Green, on the other hand, the silica particles are mixed into the coating formulation and then applied to the glove. Through Green's process, the particles are only exposed after the glove is stripped (which inverts the glove) and then inverted again to expose the coated surface. Col. 4, lines 39-42. Thus, Green discloses a process which requires that the glove must be inverted twice. However, according to the process of independent claim 14, the outside surface of the article, with the partially embedded colloidal silica particles, is exposed after stripping from the mold, which inverts the glove. As such, it is believed that claim 14 patentably defines over Green either alone or in combination with the other cited references.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims patentably define over all of the prior art of record. It is believed that the present application is in complete condition for allowance and favorable action, therefore, is respectfully requested. Examiner Rayford is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned, however, should any issues remain after consideration of this response.

Please charge any additional fees required by this Amendment to Deposit
Account No. 04-1403.

Respectfully requested,

DORITY & MANNING, P.A.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Marshall', written over a horizontal line.

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